



arts in basic curriculum  
**ABC PROJECT**

### **ABC Project Strategic Plan**

The Arts In Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project is a statewide collaborative initiative begun in 1987 and is cooperatively directed by the South Carolina Arts Commission, the South Carolina Department of Education, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Winthrop University. The ABC Project blueprint is founded on the premise that the arts are an indispensable part of a complete education because quality education in the arts significantly adds to the learning potential of our students. Arts education complements learning in other disciplines and establishes a foundation for success in school and lifelong learning. The ABC Project also provides a forum for the development of strategic arts initiatives, and serves as the foundation for a broad advocacy coalition for arts education reform in South Carolina.

**Mission:** The Arts in Basic Curriculum Project provides leadership to achieve quality, comprehensive arts education (dance, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing) for all students in South Carolina.

**We believe:** All students deserve equal access to quality, comprehensive, standards-based arts education, which is essential to the educational promise and social wellbeing of South Carolina's children. Based on research, we know the arts:

- help students understand and be understood
- the arts define and sustain community
- the arts foster the creativity, critical thinking, self-discipline, work ethic, and problem-solving skills necessary for success.

**Goal I: Increase delivery of quality arts education and arts integrated learning for all South Carolina students.**

*(The ABC Project continues to build its portfolio of research, tools, and professional development modules that help educators better understand the implementation of arts education and arts integration.)*

- **Objective A.** Develop and sustain individual schools and school districts capacities to implement comprehensive, standards-based arts education.
  - Strategy 1. SCAC ABC grants, Teacher Standards Implementation grants, Innovative Partnership Grants
  - Strategy 2. SCDE Arts Curricular Innovation grants
  - Strategy 3 Guide school and school districts to other grant funding
- **Objective B** Offer effective professional development and technical assistance that promote best practices,
  - Strategy 1. Sustain the principals' peer network.
  - Strategy 2. Establish an additional field services staff position at the ABC project.
  - Strategy 3. Design a research agenda that deepens understanding of current practices and approaches to arts education and informs professional development.
  - Strategy 4. Investigate and implement appropriate web-based and technology enabled arts and arts integration professional development practices.
  - Strategy 5. Promote diversity of and within the arts.

- **Objective C.** Support the continued implementation the 2010 SC Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts.
  - Strategy 1. Create and disseminate exemplary standards-based lesson plans.
  - Strategy 2: Promote understanding of the alignment between 2010 SC Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts and Common Core State Standards
  - Strategy 3: Promote understanding of the alignment between 2010 SC Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts and STEAM.
  - Strategy 4. Introduce the concepts of quality arts integration to teacher preparation programs.

**GOAL II: Affect the creation of and maintenance of local, state, and national policy that ensures a quality, sequential, standards-based arts education for all of South Carolina students.**

*(The ABC Project achieves this in partnership with the SC Arts Alliance. Primary activities include meetings with decision makers at the state and national levels, communications, training educators in advocacy, and research dissemination.)*

- **Objective A.** Strengthen efforts in local, grassroots advocacy.
  - Strategy 1. Continue offering local arts education advocacy workshops regionally.
  - Strategy 3. Monitor local arts advocacy efforts of the ABC Sites.
  - Strategy 3. Develop presentations and articles for dissemination to SC State School Boards Association, SC PTA, and SC School Improvement Council.
- **Objective B.** Make the case that the arts are integral to college and career readiness.
  - Strategy 1. Ensure the arts are included in other content areas and initiatives of the SC Department of Education.
  - Strategy 2. Ensure that schools and districts recognize the contributions of the arts to student learning and achievement.
  - Strategy 3. Ensure that business leaders and policy makers recognize the contributions of the arts to student learning and achievement.
- **Objective C.** Increase awareness of the work of the ABC Project
  - Strategy 1. Develop a series of articles about ABC's contributions designed for the general reader.
  - Strategy 2. Participation in the SouthArts Arts Education research project.
  - Strategy 3. Continue to be engaged in the state, regional, and national conversation about arts education.
  - Strategy 4. Expand the national reputation of the ABC Project.

**Goal III: Leverage local, state, and national partnerships that advance education in and through the arts for all South Carolina students.**

*(The ABC Project maintains partnerships through management of its coordinating and steering committees, through participation in national dialogues, and through cooperation with other education stakeholders.)*

- **Objective A.** Coordinate and streamline the efforts of cooperating arts and arts education organizations
  - Strategy 1. Conduct a reflective review of the mission, goals, and primary activities of the major arts education organizations in South Carolina, mindful of commonalities and duplication.
  - Strategy 2. Refocus organizational activities as appropriate.
  - Strategy 3. Create a compressive arts education calendar
- **Objective B.** Establish new partnerships that strengthen the education offered to South Carolina's students.
  - Strategy 1. Establish partnerships and collaborations with initiatives focused on literacy, STEAM, and the Common Core State Standards.
- **Objective C.** Enhance and diversify ABC development activities.
  - Strategy 1: Grow existing funding source.
  - Strategy 2: Identify new funding sources in the public and private sectors.